

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A communications method, comprising the steps of:
2 detecting a first telephone call to a first
3 telephone number;
4 determining if the first telephone call is a
5 fax or voice telephone call;
6 if the first telephone call is determined to be
7 a voice telephone call, forwarding the first telephone
8 call using a second telephone number; and
9 if the first telephone call is determined to be
10 a fax telephone call, forwarding the first telephone call
11 using a third telephone number, the third telephone
12 number being different from said second telephone number.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step
2 of:
3 receiving a facsimile message transmitted via
4 the first telephone call;
5 storing the received facsimile message as an
6 electronic file; and
7 E-mailing the electronic file to a call
8 forwarding service subscriber.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein determining if the
2 first telephone call is a fax or voice telephone call
3 includes:
4 answering the first telephone call; and

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5 monitoring the answered call for a tone
6 indicative of a fax communication.

1 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
2 retrieving from stored call forwarding service
3 subscriber information at least one of a stored voice
4 call forwarding telephone number and a stored fax
5 forwarding telephone number, the stored voice call
6 forwarding telephone number being used as said second
7 telephone number, the stored fax forwarding telephone
8 number being used as said third telephone number.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein said step of
2 forwarding the first telephone call using a second
3 telephone number includes:
4 placing a telephone call to said second
5 telephone number; and
6 bridging the first telephone call and the
7 telephone call to the second telephone number.

1 6. The method of claim 5,
2 wherein detecting a first telephone call
3 includes setting a terminating attempt trigger at a
4 telephone switch on a telephone line corresponding to the
5 first telephone number; and
6 wherein placing a telephone call to said second
7 telephone number and bridging the first telephone call
8 and the telephone call to the second telephone number are

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12 operating said service control point to
13 instruct the telephone switch to connect the first
14 telephone call to the telephone switch peripheral device;
15 operating the telephone switch peripheral
16 device to determine if the first telephone call is a fax
17 or voice telephone call;

18 if the first telephone call is determined to be
19 a voice telephone call,

20 i. operating the telephone switch
21 peripheral device to retrieve a voice
22 telephone call forwarding telephone number
23 from a set of stored subscriber
24 information including a voice telephone
25 call forwarding telephone number and a fax
26 telephone call forwarding telephone
27 number; and

28 ii. forwarding the first telephone call
29 using the retrieved voice telephone call
30 forwarding telephone number; and

31 if the first telephone call is determined to be
32 a fax telephone call,

33 i. operating the telephone switch
34 peripheral device to retrieve the fax
35 telephone call forwarding telephone number
36 from the set of stored subscriber
37 information; and

38 ii. forwarding the first telephone call
39 using the retrieved fax telephone call
40 forwarding telephone number.

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1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein forwarding the first
2 telephone call using the retrieved voice telephone call
3 forwarding telephone number includes operating the
4 telephone switch peripheral device to:

5 place a call to said call forwarding telephone
6 number; and

7 bridge the first telephone call and the cal to
8 said call forwarding telephone number.

1 10. The method of claim 9, wherein forwarding the first
2 telephone call using the retrieved fax telephone call
3 forwarding telephone number includes operating the
4 telephone switch peripheral device to:

5 place a call to said fax telephone call
6 forwarding telephone number; and

7 bridge the first telephone call and the call to
8 said fax telephone call forwarding telephone number.

1 11. The method of claim 8, further comprising, prior to
2 operating the telephone switch peripheral device to
3 determine if the first telephone call is a fax or voice
4 telephone call:

5 storing said set of subscriber information
6 including a voice telephone call forwarding telephone
7 number and a fax telephone call forwarding telephone
8 number in said telephone switch peripheral device.

1 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising, storing
2 in said set of subscriber information an E-mail address

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3 to be used for forwarding a fax by E-mail, the method
4 further comprising:

5 operating the telephone switch peripheral
6 device to receive a fax message transmitted by said first
7 telephone call; and

8 forwarding the fax message in an E-mail
9 addressed using the E-mail address stored in said set of
10 subscriber information.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of
2 operating the telephone switch peripheral device to
3 receive the fax message includes the step of:

4 monitoring the bridged call, between the first
5 telephone call and the call to said fax telephone call
6 forwarding telephone number, for fax data corresponding
7 to the fax message.

1 14. A machine-readable medium, comprising:

2 a call forwarding service subscriber record,
3 the record including:

4 a fax forwarding telephone number; and
5 a voice telephone call forwarding
6 telephone number.

1 15. The machine-readable medium of claim 14, wherein
2 said call forwarding service subscriber record further
3 includes:

4 an E-mail address for use when forwarding faxes
5 by E-mail.

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11 ii. send an E-mail message including said
12 received facsimile message to a call
13 forwarding service subscriber.

1 20. The communications method of claim 19, further
2 comprising the step of:
3 using the called telephone number to access a
4 call forwarding service subscriber record; and
5 retrieving from the call forwarding service
6 subscriber record an E-mail address to be used for
7 forwarding a fax message.

1 21. The communications method of claim 20, wherein the
2 step of operating a telephone switch to detect a call to
3 a telephone number includes:
4 setting a terminating attempt trigger on a
5 telephone line corresponding to said telephone number.

1 22. The communications method of claim 21, further
2 comprising the step of:
3 contacting a service control point for call
4 processing instructions in response to activation of said
5 terminating attempt trigger; and
6 wherein connecting the telephone call to a
7 peripheral device includes:
8 operating the telephone switch to couple
9 the detected call to the peripheral device in
10 response to an instruction received from the
11 service control point.

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1 23. The communications method of claim 22,
2 wherein the instruction received from the
3 service control point is a STOR message; and
4 wherein the peripheral device is coupled to
5 said telephone switch by an additional telephone switch.

1 24. A fax forwarding method, the method comprising:
2 for each of a plurality of fax forwarding
3 service subscribers, creating a subscriber record
4 including:
5 at least one telephone number
6 corresponding to a telephone line on which the
7 forwarding service subscriber may receive a fax
8 call; and
9 an E-mail address to be used to forward a
10 fax received by answering a call directed to
11 said at least one telephone number;
12 monitoring a plurality of said telephone lines
13 on which fax forwarding service subscribers may receive
14 fax calls; and
15 in response to receiving a fax call on one of
16 said monitored lines:
17 determining, by accessing the subscriber
18 record corresponding to the telephone line on
19 which the fax call is received, an E-mail
20 address to be used for forwarding a fax
21 received on said telephone line; and

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22 forwarding by E-mail, using the determined
23 E-mail address, a fax received on said
24 telephone line.

1 25. The method of claim 24, wherein monitoring a
2 plurality of said telephone lines on which fax forwarding
3 service subscribers may receive fax calls includes:
4 setting an AIN terminating attempt trigger on
5 each of said plurality of telephone lines.

1 26. The method of claim 24, further comprising, in
2 response to receiving a fax call on one of said monitored
3 lines, performing the additional steps of:
4 determining, by accessing the subscriber record
5 corresponding to the telephone line on which the fax call
6 is received, a fax forwarding telephone number to be used
7 for forwarding a fax received on said telephone line; and
8 placing a call using the determined fax
9 forwarding telephone number; and
10 bridging the placed call and the received fax
11 call thereby forwarding the fax call by telephone.

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